

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-4, 9-11 and 16-20 were previously presented.

Claims 5-8 and 12-14 are original.

Claim 15 is currently amended.

Upon entry of the amendment claims 1-20 will be active.

The amendment to claim 15 is supported by claim 15 as originally presented.

No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Oh for indicating that claims 17-20 are allowable.

The Office rejected claims 1-3, 7-8 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Mott (CA 1,338,673). In addition, the Office rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The present disclosure involves a process for separating palladium from a crude reaction mixture containing aryl acetic acids. The crude reaction mixture is obtained from a palladium catalyzed carbonylation reaction. The separation of palladium from the crude reaction mixture is achieved by adsorption of the palladium on a solid absorbent. This reaction is not taught or suggested by Mott; and therefore, the claimed process would not have been rendered unpatentable over Mott.

Mott describes a catalyst recycle process in the carbonylation of isobutylphenylethanol to ibuprofen. The process involves separating the palladium by crystallization of the palladium from the reaction mixture in a rotary evaporator (page 5 of the Office Action and page 18 of Mott). There is no teaching or suggestion in Mott for separating palladium by adsorption of the palladium on a solid absorbent. Because Mott does not teach or suggest all the recitations of the claimed method, the claimed method would not have been anticipated or obvious over Mott. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the rejections of Claims 1-3, 7-8 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Mott.

Finally, Applicants note that claim 15 has been amended such that it is free of the criticisms on page 3 of the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office withdraw the rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In light of the remarks above, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 12810-00148-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: July 23, 2008

Respectfully submitted,
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